

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

___ FAIR

___ DETERIORATED

___ RUINS

___ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

___ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main section of the stone house John Hiram Taylor built in Dickinson County is two and a half stories measuring 40 feet by 40 feet with a cupola surmounting the truncated hip roof. The house faces north. There is a two-story polygonal bay projecting from the east wall. An older two-story rectangular wing extends from the center of the south wall so that the two sections together form a T-plan. This kitchen wing has a gable roof with an enclosed one-story porch at the southwest corner and an open porch at the southeast corner.

The cupola and four gabled dormers which light the attic floor of the main section are framed in wood. There are two original stone chimneys on the east. The metal roof is original. There is ornamental cresting on the cupola; some cresting also remains around the edges of the flat roof. A metal cornice ornaments the main roofline as well as the termination of the hip roof.

The basement of the Taylor house is unusually deep (eleven feet) for the purpose of reaching a layer of bedrock for foundation support. Careful attention to detail is also shown in the masonry walls. After the stone blocks were squared and faced with a toothed hammer, the edges were dressed with chisels. Each block was closely fitted with extremely fine mortar joints. Smooth-faced stone is used for trimming the main features of the building.

The most distinctive details of the stonework in the Taylor house, however, are the 21 handcarved lintels. Each has a different design. One records the original owner's initials, "JHT"; the other designs represent "good luck" symbols such as the ivy, thistle, heather, anchor, and star.

Inside, the Taylor house has a central stair hall with two rooms on each side. There are four rooms on the second and third floors. Most of the first floor is finished in walnut except for the dining room wainscoting which is cherry. The upper floors are finished in yellow pine.

There are two large rooms and a cellar in the kitchen wing. When this building was first built it was used as a dwelling, with the kitchen located in the cellar. A bake oven built into the basement wall still remains from this occupation. Although the stone used in this part is squared, it was not tooled.

Not only the house, but also the outbuildings of Prospect Park Farm are constructed of stone. These are built of rough-faced coursed blocks. There is a one-and-a-half story bunkhouse south of the main house. It has a gable roof with the entrance located in the end wall. Some distance to the east, but aligned with the bunkhouse, is a milkhouse/smokehouse.

Two barns farther south and east of the house have similar plans and detailing. Both are rectangular buildings with gable roofs; they are two stories tall with a raised basement. The east barn is 60 feet by 100 feet; the west is 50 feet by 90 feet. The west barn (called the horse barn) has

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a frame and stone addition forming an ell. Ramps on both sides of each barn run up to a central cross passage with sliding wooden entrance doors. These runways have cisterns built underneath to store collected rainwater. The windows of the barns have carved keystone arch lintels. In each gable end there is also a high opening for ridge ventilation. Also in the gable ends at the basement level, there are broad arched openings for driveways.

Alterations

The architectural integrity of the Prospect Park Farm buildings is excellent. Only minor changes have occurred since their construction.

A front porch across the north wall of the Taylor house was removed about 50 years ago. Two chimneys on the west were removed; one was later replaced in the 1920's. The chimney top in the end wall of the kitchen wing has been rebuilt. The cupola roof of the main section has been resingled, and the walls have been covered with asbestos siding. The metal-covered main roof has been tarred and painted. Some parts of the metal cornice have been repaired. Storm windows have been added and new basement windows installed. On the exterior of the ground floor, repointing during the 1940's has left a beaded joint where there was none originally.

Although the uses of the outbuildings and barns have changed, the structures retain their historical appearance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___ PREHISTORIC	___ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___ COMMUNITY PLANNING	___ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___ RELIGION
___ 1400-1499	___ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___ CONSERVATION	___ LAW	___ SCIENCE
___ 1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	___ ECONOMICS	___ LITERATURE	___ SCULPTURE
___ 1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	___ EDUCATION	___ MILITARY	___ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___ 1700-1799	___ ART	___ ENGINEERING	___ MUSIC	___ THEATER
X 1800-1899	___ COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___ PHILOSOPHY	___ TRANSPORTATION
___ 1900-	___ COMMUNICATIONS	___ INDUSTRY	___ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Hiram Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A writer in 1893 called Prospect Park "one of Dickinson County's finest farms." It was noted both for its fine limestone buildings and its diverse and valuable products. The John H. Taylor house displays a pretentious form and meticulous detailing that is unexpected in a rural setting, evidence of the sophistication of its owner and the quality of the craftsmen he was able to employ. The house is complemented by a number of substantial stone buildings. Together they form a distinctive farm complex of the 1880's.

Chronology

John Hiram Taylor was named after his father, John, who was first in the family to visit Kansas in 1873. John Taylor was a prosperous wholesale merchant in Cincinnati, Ohio. He had come west on a Kansas Pacific Railroad tour which was promoting the sale of land grants along the route.

Two years later, in 1875, John Taylor bought section 33 where Prospect Park is now located. In the same year, Taylor was one of a number of farmers in Dickinson County who planted more than one hundred acres of winter wheat. This was something of an innovation at the time since varieties of winter wheat had only been successfully tested the year before.

John and his son John Hiram built the first house on Section 33 in 1876. This was the original two-story building which was later incorporated into a larger design by John H. Taylor. The west barn was finished in 1877. Stone for these two buildings came from Swenson Creek four miles west of the farm. The upper part of the barn was used to store hay and equipment, the lower part for livestock. Another similar barn was built in 1882.

John Taylor deeded section 33 to his son, John Hiram, in 1877. For three years prior to this, John Hiram had worked on the Dickinson County farm during the summer, and returned to Cincinnati for school during the winter, seven years after settling permanently in Kansas, John Hiram Taylor married Fanny Converse in 1884. That same year he drew plans for a substantial home utilizing the design characteristics of the Italianate Villa style. He supervised the construction of the new structure which overshadowed the original stone house built with his father.

Stone for the new building was hauled from the Borman quarry eight miles northeast of the farm. Taylor employed skilled masons and stone carvers--two Scotsmen named Medley and Wilkie. The masons reportedly made their own lime

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mortar in a kiln dug near the farm. The head carpenter, Henry Leonard, was brought in from Chicago. Lumber for the interior paneling and trim was obtained from Cincinnati.

John Hiram Taylor's expansion cost \$10,000; the house was worth as much as all the other buildings on the farm combined. According to a contemporary account, it was "conveniently arranged with modern improvements." Running water was provided by gravity flow from a storage tank in the attic. The house was lit by chandeliers and heated by coal burning baseburners. There were also two larger stoves and a kitchen range. Coal was carried to the upper floors on a dumb waiter.

Although the main house and outbuildings formed a notable assemblage of buildings, Prospect Park Farm was also an impressive agricultural enterprise. Taylor bred fine Shorthorn cattle and Percheron draft horses, and the farm's prize-winning animals were in demand among farmers of the surrounding area. Taylor also had a twenty-acre orchard which afforded the family plenty of fruit for its own use and some for sale. The Taylors had been one of the first families in the area to plant Osage Orange seeds for hedge fencing. After John Hiram had established some nine miles of hedge around his own land, he gave seeds and young trees to his neighbors.

By the 1890's Taylor was farming 350 acres of corn and wheat. Wheat was the leading cash crop. Later in the decade, Taylor became interested in a cheese-making process which required aging in the cool basement under the house. This treatment made it possible to store and distribute the cheese widely.

John Hiram Taylor was active in the Methodist church and a political supporter, first of the Republican, then the People's Party. In the 1880's the family also participated in weekly literary meetings which met in Rinehart School, three miles from Prospect Park Farm.

A stop on the branch line of the Rock Island Railroad was also located near the farm. When the Taylors contributed \$500 for construction of a depot at that point, it was named Pearl after John Taylor's youngest daughter. This was a convenient shipping point for the Taylor grain and cattle. Later John Hiram and his brother, Clarence, established the Pearl Mercantile Company which consisted of a general store and grain elevator.

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Since the early settlement of Dickinson County, the Taylors have been leaders in the surrounding community. The well-maintained features of the farm reflect this status. Presently the farm is owned and operated by one of John Hiram Taylor's sons.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Affadavit by Paul E. Taylor. n.d.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Dickinson, Saline, McPherson, and Marion Counties.
(Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1893).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6

UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Name: Kansas Falls

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

A 14 674719 4305300
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property includes approximately six acres in the center northeast quarter of Section 33, T13S, R4E Rinehart Township, Dickinson County. Proceeding from the north section line one quarter mile south of and parallel to the township road, the boundary begins at a point 200 yards east of the main driveway, then runs south 200 yards, then west 300 yards, then north 200 yards to the section line.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie Wortman, Historic Preservation Specialist II, Historic Preservation Dept.
Dale Nimz, Program Assistant, Historic Preservation Department

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

DATE 10-7-81

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth

TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

STATE Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE 10-7-81

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

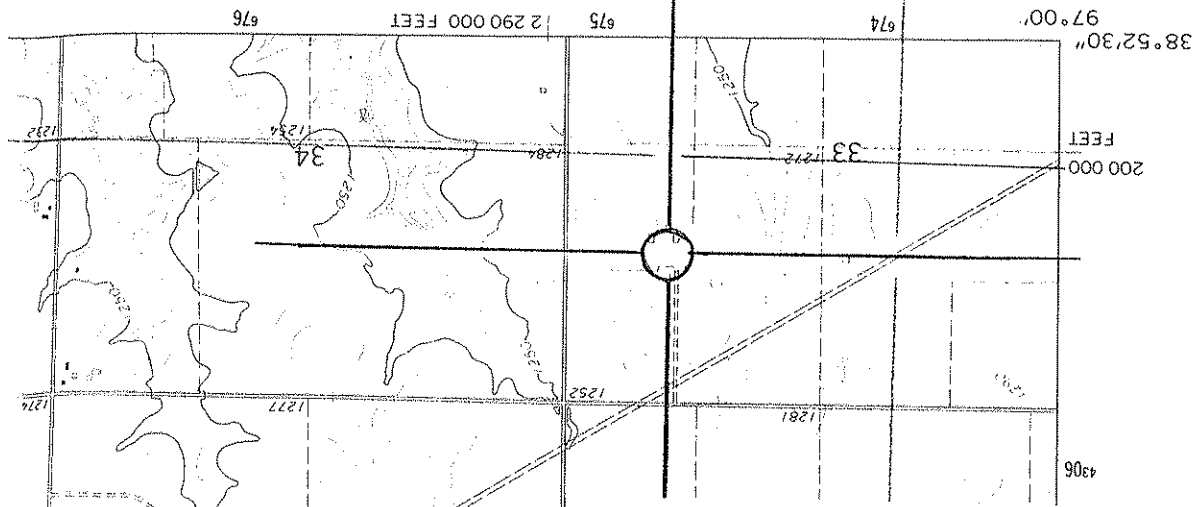
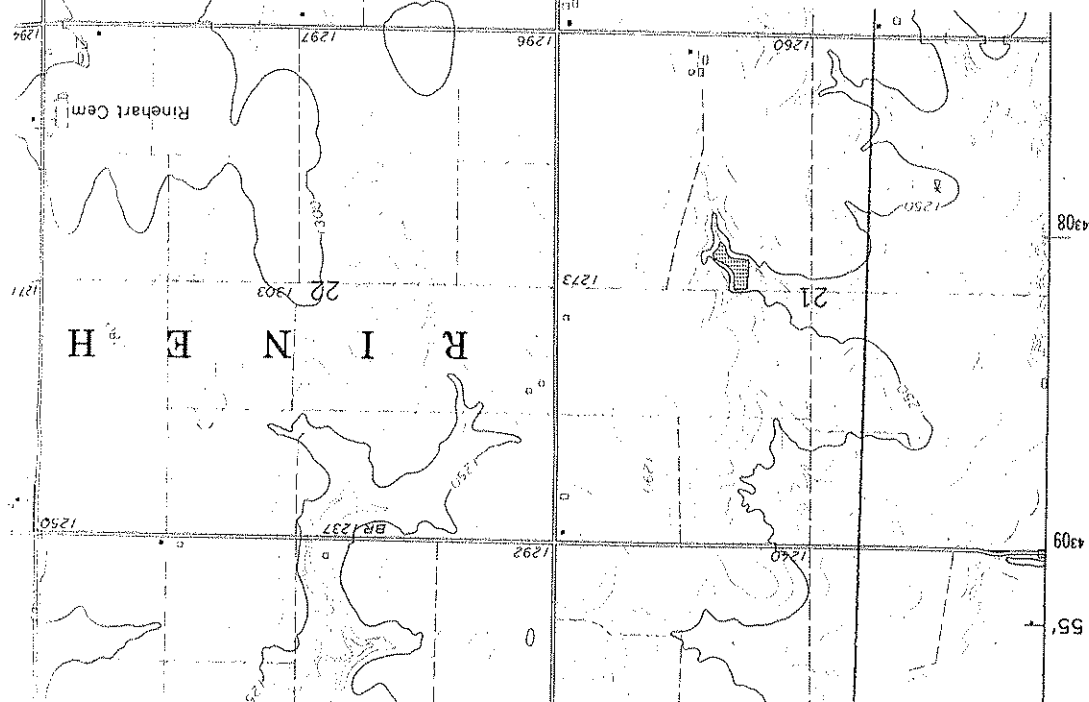
DATE 10-7-81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST

DATE 10-7-81

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PROSPECT PARK FARM--Dickinson County
 Vicinity Chapman, Kansas
 UTM Reference: 14/674719/4305300



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC/GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1964
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 14, shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken
 1977. Map edited 1978. This information not field checked

(NAVAAR) 6861 1 SE

